

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 /054 W
-----011564 031655Z /47

P 031622Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC 5184
USICA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MADRID 07493

SECSTATE FOR EUR/WE; EUR/RPM
USICA FOR PGM/F
BRUSSELS FOR CODEL BYRD

SUBJECT: MADRID PRESS REPORTS SENATOR BYRD VISIT

REF: MADRID 3078

1. MADRID PRESS AND SPANISH NATIONAL TELEVISION
CARRIED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE SENATOR BYRD VISIT TO
SPANISH PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ AND ARMED FORCES
CHIEF GENERAL GUTIERREZ MELLADO.

2. SUNDAY, JULY 2, ABC (CONSERVATIVE): "AMERICAN
SENATOR ROBERT BYRD, SPECIAL ENVOY OF PRESIDENT
CARTER, WHO MET WITH PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ AT
MIDDAY YESTERDAY, DECLARED THAT THE TOPIC OF
SPANISH ENTRY INTO NATO WAS NOT DISCUSSED DURING THE
INTERVIEW. CONCERNING OUR ENTRY INTO THE EUROPEAN
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, HE SAID THAT HIS COUNTRY WOULD
BE HAPPY TO SEE SPAIN INTEGRATED INTO THE COMMON
MARKET.

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3. "NOTWITHSTANDING THESE DECLARATIONS, SENATOR
BYRD SAID HE EXPRESSED TO THE PRIME MINISTER THE
DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE CONGRESS AND THE
PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES TO DEFEND WESTERN EUROPE
AGAINST ANY ATTACK, AS WELL AS THE DESIRE OF AMERICA
TO COOPERATE WITH ALL OF THE EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS

IN THIS SENSE. ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD DISCUSS THE TOPIC OF NATO IN THE INTERVIEW WITH GUTIERREZ MELLADO, THE AMERICAN SENATOR UNDERLINED THAT HE WOULD NOT, THAT HE DID NOT COME TO SPAIN TO NEGOTIATE THIS SUBJECT AND THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION OF MENTIONING IT, ALTHOUGH HE INDICATED THAT IF ANYONE WITH WHOM HE MET WOULD RAISE THE SUBJECT HE WOULD RESPOND.

4. "IN THIS SENSE, HE SAID THAT 'THE UNITED STATES AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF NATO WOULD LOOK FAVORABLY UPON THE ENTRY OF SPAIN AS NEW MEMBER OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, BUT THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF AMERICA COMPLETELY RECOGNIZE THAT THE FUTURE OF SPAIN LIES IN SPANISH HANDS. THE DECISION ABOUT THE FUTURE OF SPAIN AND HER POSSIBLE ENTRY INTO NATO IS AN AFFAIR WHICH CORRESPONDS EXCLUSIVELY TO THE SPANISH PEOPLE,' CONCLUDED THE SENATOR.

5. "REFERRING TO THE ENTRY OF OUR COUNTRY INTO THE COMMON MARKET AND TO THE POSSIBILITY OF U.S. SUPPORT, PRESIDENT CARTER'S ENVOY RESPONDED THAT THIS TOPIC HAD NOT COME UP EITHER IN THE CONVERSATION WITH SUAREZ AND THAT THE AMERICAN REPLY WOULD BE...THAT 'THE DECISION ON ENTRY CORRESPONDS TO THE SPANISH PEOPLE AND TO THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, BUT THE UNITED STATES WOULD LIKE TO SEE UNCLASSIFIED

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SPAIN ENTER THE COMMON MARKET.'...

6. "SENATOR BYRD, IN ADDITION TO HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT LEADERS...APPARENTLY WILL ALSO DEAL WITH THE AMERICAN SENATE RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING HALF A MILLION DOLLARS TO COVER THE COST OF SHIPPING AND INSTALLING IN A SPANISH MUSEUM PICASSO'S 'GUERNICA'..."

7. SUNDAY, JULY 2, ARIBA (GOVERNMENT ORIENTED) COVERS THE SAME GROUND, STRESSING THE SENATOR'S STATEMENT THAT "'I DID NOT DISCUSS WITH PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ THE TOPIC OF SPANISH ENTRY INTO NATO.'" THE REPORT ALSO QUOTES THE SENATOR AS SAYING THAT "'THE UNITED STATES AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF NATO WOULD LOOK FAVORABLY UPON THE ENTRY OF SPAIN INTO THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AS A NEW MEMBER, BUT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT TOTALLY RECOGNIZE THAT THE DESTINY OF SPAIN REMAINS IN SPANISH HANDS. THE DECISION ABOUT THE FUTURE OF SPAIN AND HER POSSIBLE ENTRY INTO NATO IS AN AFFAIR THAT CORRESPONDS EXCLUSIVELY TO THE SPANISH PEOPLE.'"

8. SUNDAY, JULY 2, EL PAIS (INDEPENDENT LIBERAL LEFT) PRESENTS A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT SLANT IN AN ARTICLE WRITTEN BY ALBERTO VALVERDE: "IN BOTH INTERVIEWS (TR. SUAREZ AND GUTIERREZ MELLADO), AND DESPITE THE DIALECTICAL EFFORT OF SENATOR BYRD TO EXPLAIN THAT HE 'DID NOT BRING UP THE SUBJECT,' THE EVENTUAL INCORPORATION OF SPAIN INTO THE DEFENSIVE SYSTEM OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE WAS

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 /054 W
-----011623 031655Z /47

P 031622Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC 5185
USICA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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SPOKEN ABOUT, ALTHOUGH THE VISITOR INSISTED THAT
'I DID NOT COME TO SPAIN TO RAISE THE QUESTION.'

9. "IN THE BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE...SENATOR BYRD LET THE EXCESSIVE MODERATION THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED THE LATEST AMERICAN DECLARATIONS ABOUT SPANISH ADHESION TO NATO SHOW THROUGH, DESPITE THE FACT THAT HE RECOGNIZED THAT 'THE UNITED STATES -- ITS EXECUTIVE, CONGRESS AND PEOPLE -- AS WELL AS THE EUROPEAN ALLIES WOULD LIKE IT THAT SPAIN ENTER TO FORM PART, AS A FULL MEMBER, OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.'

10. "AFTER ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THIS WAS, BASICALLY, THE MESSAGE THAT THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT, JIMMY

CARTER, GAVE HIM FOR THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE, THE SENATOR AVOIDED ANY SUGGESTION BY THE PRESS TO DETAIL THE CONTENT OF HIS LONG CONVERSATION
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WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT, FOR WHOM HE HAD MANY WORDS OF PRAISE.

11. "IN THE INTERVIEW WITH GUTIERREZ MELLADO... STRATEGIC AND DEFENSE PROBLEMS WERE ANALIZED IN DETAIL, ACCORDING TO WHAT COULD BE LEARNED. THE CANARIES QUESTION, THE SAHARA PROBLEM AND ALSO THE SPANISH ENCLAVES IN NORTH AFRICA CAME OUT IN THE CONVERSATION.

12. "WASHINGTON AND MADRID APPEAR TO BE IN AGREEMENT TO LIMIT TO THE MINIMUM THEIR PUBLIC DECLARATIONS ABOUT THE 'UNDER THE TABLE' NEGOTIATIONS THAT ARE DEVELOPING OVER THE TOPIC OF SPAIN AND NATO. THIS AGREEMENT OF SILENCE SEEMS TO BE A RESULT OF THE DISTRUST THAT THIS TOPIC PLANTS IN THE PARTIS OF THE SPANISH LEFT -- PRINCIPALLY THE PSOE -- THAT ARE OPPOSED TO THE REALIZATION OF THIS ENTRY..."

13. ON JULY 1, THE SAME NEWSMAN WROTE FOR EL PAIS: "THE AMERICAN CONGRESS FINDS ITSELF CONSIDERING THE SUITABILITY OF APPROVING A RESOLUTION THAT, EXPRESSING THE OPINION AND 'SENSE' OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODY, INVITES IN SOME FORM THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE TO INTEGRATE INTO THE DEFENSE SYSTEM OF NATO.

14. "THE TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION, WHICH ACCORDING TO AMERICAN SOURCES WILL CLEARLY AVOID GIVING THE APPEARANCE OF PRESSURING MADRID TO JOIN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, ALREADY IS IN THE EDITING STAGE AND PRESUMABLY WILL BE GIVEN BEFOREHAND TO THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT, WITH WHICH CONSULTATION ABOUT ITS
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SUITABILITY IS BEING THOUGHT ABOUT.

15. "ALTHOUGH IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO OFFICIALLY CONFIRM THIS TO SUCH A POINT, THE IMPRESSION IS HELD IN WELL INFORMED DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES THAT SENATOR BYRD...WILL COMMUNICATE TO PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ

THE INTENTIONS AND DESIRES OF THE AMERICAN
LEGISLATURE AND THE WHITE HOUSE WITH RELATION TO
SPANISH ENTRY INTO NATO..." VALVERDE THEN
SPECULATES ABOUT SPAIN, NATO AND RELATED TOPICS.
16. OTHER MADRID NEWSPAPERS CARRIED SHORTER
ACCOUNTS OF THE VISIT, GENERALLY UNDERLINING THE
SENATOR'S STATEMENT THAT THE SUBJECT OF SPAIN AND
NATO WAS NOT DISCUSSED. RYLANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, CODELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MADRID07493
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780274-0251
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197807100/aaaadgej.tel
Line Count: 232
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 573dc06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MADRID 3078
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1846452
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MADRID PRESS REPORTS SENATOR BYRD VISIT
TAGS: SOPN, US, SP, (BYRD, ROBERT)
To: ICA STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/573dc06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014